

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SCCT-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05 /090 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7474

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5070

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJ: GA LIMITS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SPEAK DURING PALESTINE

DEBATE

REF: USUN 4934

SUMMARY. GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDED NOV 14 TO LIMIT ISRAEL TO ONE STATEMENT DURING PALESTINE DEBATE RATHER THAN PERMIT IT TO SPEAK EACH MORNING. VOTE WAS 75 IN FAVOR OF LIMITATION, 23(US) AGAINST AND 18 ABSTENTIONS. AMB SCALI SPOKE AGAINST LIMITATION. DECISION DOES NOT AFFECT ISRAEL'S RIGHT OF REPLY.

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, ISRAEL HAD INSCRIBED HERSELF AS THIRD SPEAKER FOR EACH DAY OF PALESTINE DEBATE, SEEKING TO ASSURE THAT SHE NOT BE LIMITED TO TEN-MINUTE RIGHTS OF REPLY AT END
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OF DAY. ARABS FIRST COUNTERED BY INSCRIBING SYRIA TO FOLLOW

ISRAEL EACH DAY. LATE NOV 13, AFTER PARTICULARLY HARSH SPEECH BY ISRAELI PERMREP TEKOA, ARAB GROUP ASKED GA PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA TO RESTRICT ISRAEL TO ONE GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT.

2. AFTER ARAB DECISION, ISRAELI MISSION ASKED FOR US TO INTERCEDE WITH BOUTEFLIKA OR USYG MORSE TO HAVE DECISION REVERSED. AFTER TELEPHONIC DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPT, WE TOLD ISRAELI MISSION THAT WE SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING DECISION AND WANTED TO RESERVE OUR CAPITAL FOR SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. WE ADDED ALSO THAT INSCRIBING FOR EACH DAY WAS UNPRECEDENTED AND RAN COUNTER TO LONG-STANDING US EFFORTS TO SHORTEN DEBATES AND RATIONALIZE UN PROCEDURES.

3. AT 3:00 PM PRESS CONFERENCE TEKOA PASSED OUT COPIES OF LETTER TO SYG TO EFFECT THAT GA PRESIDENT HAD PREVENTED HIM FROM SPEAKING AT NOV 14 PLENARY SESSION, CONTRARY TO RULES OF PROCEDURE AND DESPITE FACT ISRAEL HAD BEEN INSCRIBED FOR TWO WEEKS. HE SAID THIS WAS ONE MORE ACT OF BIAS ON PART OF GA PRESIDENT. (TEXT OF LETTER TRANSMITTED PARA 6)

4. AT NOV 14 AFTERNOON SESSION, BOUTEFLIKA ASKED ALL SPEAKERS WHO HAD INSCRIBED MORE THAN ONCE TO LIMIT THEMSELVES TO ONE GENERAL DEBATE INTERVENTION. HE NOTED THAT RULE 35 OF GA RULES OF PROCEDURE STATES PRESIDENT MAY PROPOSE LIMITATION OF NUMBER OF TIMES EACH REPRESENTATIVE MAY SPEAK AND RULE 72 PROVIDES THAT TWO REPRESENTATIVES MAY SPEAK IN FAVOR OF, AND TWO AGAINST, A PROPOSAL TO SET SUCH LIMITS. BOUTEFLIKA ASKED THAT, DESPITE THESE PROVISIONS, HE HOPED DELEGATIONS CONCERNED WOULD COMPLY VOLUNTARILY WITH HIS REQUEST TO LIMIT INTERVENTIONS. TEKOA REFUSED TO ACQUIESCE, AND BOUTEFLIKA ASKED FOR TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO SPEAK ON BOTH SIDES OF QUESTION. TEKOA SPOKE FIRST, HIS MAIN ARGUMENT BEING THAT EQUITY REQUIRED THAT HE BE ALLOWED MORE THAN ONE STATEMENT, SINCE THERE WERE 20 ARAB STATES AND ONE ISRAEL. SENEGAL AND IRAQ THEN SPOKE IN FAVOR OF LIMITATION, AND AMB SCALI SPOKE AGAINST.

5. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMB SCALI'S STATEMENT:

QUOTE: I RISE IN FAVOR OF THE RIGHT OF UNLIMITED DEBATE ON AN ISSUE OF THIS MAGNITUDE. WE DO NOT DISPUTE THE RIGHT

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OF THE PRESIDENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ASSEMBLY, TO PROPOSE TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF TIMES A SPEAKER MAY ADDRESS THIS ASSEMBLY ON ANY QUESTION. BUT, MR. PRESIDENT, WE WOULD HOPE IN EXERCISING THIS RIGHT YOUR DECISION WOULD REFLECT A STANDARD OF REASONABLENESS IN KEEPING WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ISSUE UNDER DEBATE. IT IS NOT FRIVOLOUS, OR UNREASONABLE IN OUR VIEW, TO DESIRE TO MAKE KNOWN YOUR POINT OF VIEW AT LEAST SEVERAL TIMES IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

THEREFORE WE WOULD APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT TO EXERCISE HIS JUDGMENT AS TO THE NUMBER OF APPROPRIATE TIMES WITH UTMOST FLIXIBILITY IN VIEW OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM WE ARE DISCUSSING. UNQUOTE.

6. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TEKOAH LETTER TO SYG.

QUOTE EXCELLENCY,

CONTRARY TO PRACTICE AND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PREVENTED ME FROM SPEAKING AT TODAY'S PLENARY SESSION ON ITEM 108, DESPITE THE FACT THAT ISRAEL REMAINED INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF SPEAKERS FOR TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE DEBATE BEGAN.

THIS WAS ONE MORE ACT OF BIAS ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENT, WHO SINCE HIS ELECTION HAS REPEATEDLY DISPLAYED A LACK OF OBJECTIVITY WITH REGARD TO ISRAEL AND ITS RIGHTS.

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO TRANSMIT TO YOU THE STATEMENT I INTENDED TO MAKE AND TO REQUEST THAT THIS LETTER AND ITS ENCLOSURE BE CIRCULATED AS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOCUMENT.

YOSEF TEKOAH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS UNQUOTE

7. US IS INSCRIBED TO SPEAK THIRD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21.
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